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SALT LAKE CITY (Utah)
TELEGRAM
Circ.: e. 85,105
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Date: AUG 8 1960

Reds Twist Truth

Russ-Ousted Student Hits Back At Charges

The Salt Lake City student whom Russian newspapers accused of spying told Monday how Communists twist simple truths into hard-to-untwist pretzels of slanderous propaganda.

Edwin Morrell, the 21-year-old Harvard student who was expelled from Moscow State University in June, spoke out in the wake of new Soviet charges published in the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

For instance, the latest charges say he left "slanderous anti-Communist literature" in the rooms of fellow students at Moscow University.

The literature?

"It was the European edition of the New York Times," Mr. Morrell said.

Slander Charged

The Russian newspaper said Mr. Morrell slandered Russian people by pestering Soviet students with anti-Soviet questions.

"One of the gerat advantages of the early part of the year was that . . . Soviet students displayed eagerness to hear the American viewpoint which Soviet officials would narrow-mindedly call "anti-Soviet," Mr. Morrell said.

"They displayed as much curiosity as we did," he added.

The paper also said he tried to crash a meeting of a Communist Party cell of the law faculty.

Promises to admit Americans in Communist Party meetings were never kept, Mr. Morrell said, observing that he also had extreme difficulty gaining permission to attend trade union meetings. They were the subject of his study.

'Didn't Meet Him'

An African student who studied in Russia and later made charges of Russian racism, Omar Okullo of Uganda, was called "a puppet in Morrell's hands" by the Soviet press.

The Salt Laker said several African students who were dissatisfied in Russia befriended him.

"But I don't ever recall having met Okullo," he said.

The Red newspaper also made a statement that was an outright untruth, Mr. Morrell said. Komsomolskaya Pravda said he tried to convert Russians to Mormonism.

He answered:

"Because of the Soviet anti-religious attitude, I restrained myself generally from saying anything about religion. Most of my Russian friends have no idea what Mormonism is."

'No Proselyting'

The newspaper said he is a "Mormon preacher" who couldn't make any converts in the Soviet Union.

"Of course there were no conversions," he replied. "Because there was no proselyting."

The Russian newspaper said most foreign students in Russia behave correctly and study seriously, "but unfortunately monsters, like Morrell aren't alone."

It added that a Waco, Texas, student, Stanley Krebs, "had worked two years for the Central Intelligence Agency."

The State Department and Mr. Morrell's U.S. professors defended him as being a fine student.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW
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